

Service Date: June 27, 1979

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)
of the SHELBY GAS ASSOCIATION for)
Authority to Increase Rates and)
Charges for Natural Gas Service.)

DOCKET NO. 6626
ORDER NO. 4528
INTERIM RATE ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On November 1, 1978, SHELBY GAS ASSOCIATION made application to this Commission for authority to increase rates in order to offset increased gas costs charged by The Montana Power Company as a result of Docket No. 6618.

2. Shelby Gas Association purchases one hundred percent (100%) of its gas from The Montana Power Company.

3. On June 25, 1979, this Commission granted Montana Power Company an increase in its natural gas rates. Included in the rate increase order was authorization to increase charges to Montana Power's small utility customers.

4. This increase will result in a corresponding expense increase to Shelby Gas Association.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases pending a hearing or final action. If the final action is to disapprove the increase the Commission shall order a rebate to all consumers for the amount collected retroactive to the date of the temporary approval. 69-3-304, MCA.

2. The application of Shelby Gas Association will be noticed for hearing at a later date.

ORDER

1. Shelby Gas Association is authorized to increase its rates to cover increased gas costs from The Montana Power Company as a result of Commission Order No. 4521, and to file tariffs and supporting calculations.

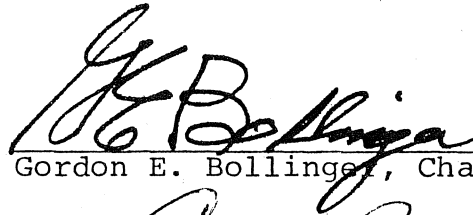
2. The increase granted herein is subject to rebate should the final Order in this Docket determine that a lesser increase than authorized by this Order is required.

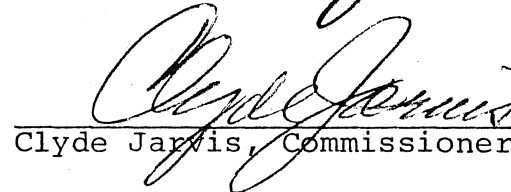
3. In the event a rebate is directed by the final Order in this Docket, provision shall be made in that Order to cause all uncollected rebates to be escheated to the State of Montana in the manner provided by law.

4. The increased rates shall be collected upon a constant, uniform cents per Mcf basis.

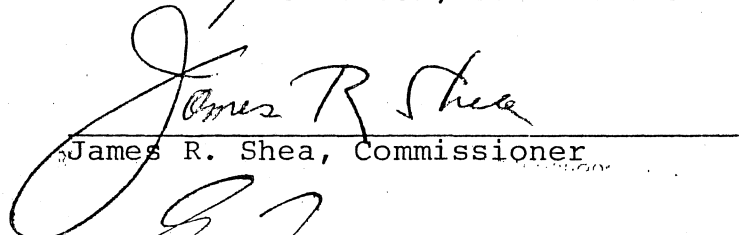
5. The filed tariffs shall be effective upon Commission approval.

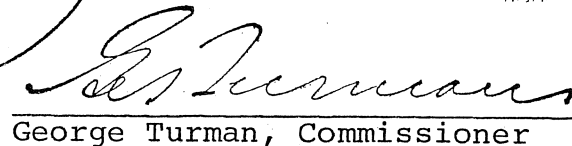
DONE IN OPEN SESSION by a vote of 5 - 0 at a meeting of the Public Service Commission held June 25, 1979.


Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman

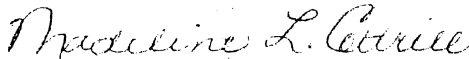

Clyde Jarvis, Commissioner


Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner


James R. Shea, Commissioner


George Turman, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Madeline L. Cottrill
Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTICE: You are entitled to judicial review of the final decision in this matter. If no Motion for Reconsideration is filed, judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days from the service of this order. If a Motion for Reconsideration is filed, a Commission order is final for purpose of appeal upon the entry of a ruling on that motion, or upon the passage of ten (10) days following the filing of that motion. cf. the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, esp. Sec. 2-4-702, MCA; and Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, esp. 38-2.2(64)-P2750, ARM.